(e) measures being taken to assist the small entrepreneurs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The charter policy is governed by the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India, (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and rules framed in 1982. All efforts are made to achieve the objectives of Charter Policy.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the revised charter policy announced in 1986, priority is given to small and medium entrepreneurs as compared to large industry houses in the issue of charter permits.

Problems faced by Fishing Industry

1172. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fishing industry is facing difficulties for a variety of reasons;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to assist these units to be revived ;

(c) whether Commerce Ministry have submitted any proposal to supply diesel fuel to this industry at lower rates ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to expedite relief measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The main difficulties that the deep sea fishing vessel owners have indicated relates to finance, high cost of diesel oil, lack of suitable facilities at fishing harbours, lack of convincing data on resources, procedural problems with regard to acquisition/registration of vessels, delay in getting approval for employing foreign crew etc. Some of the issues have already been taken up with the concerned authorities with a view to remove the difficulties.

(c) and (d) A copy of a scheme formulated by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for supply of diesel to deep sea fishing industry has been recently received by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries from the Ministry of Commerce.

Over-fishing on the East Coast

1173. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps being taken to control over-fishing on the East Coast;

(b) whether an irreversible decline has set in for shrimp resources on the East Coast; and

(c) the measures being taken to protect the existing shrimp fishing industry through conservation and prevention of over-fishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) There is no evidence to suggest overfishing of non-shrimp resources on the East Coast. However, it is reported that shrimp resources on the North East Coast is exploited at